

REMARKS

The invention is generally directed to, in embodiments, a method and system for processing a command line from a command line interface that, for example, allows macros to be included within the text of a command line. The macros may be expanded to generate commands and parameters that are included in the command line.

In the present application, claims 1-21 are currently pending, with claims 1, 9, and 15 being independent claims. In the subject Office action, all of the pending claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,802,165 to Ream ("Ream").

Applicants have amended claims 1-6, 9-12, and 15 for clarity and consistency. Claims 1-5 have been amended to include a limitation of an "executable" command. *See* Application, page 2, lines 7, 8, page 6, line 10. Independent claim 9 has been amended to specifically recite the step of parsing the "batch" file to locate the text representing the macro, as well as to include a limitation of an "executable" command. *See Id*; Application, page 6, line 22. Claims 10, 11, and 15 have also been amended to include a limitation of an "executable" command. *See* Application, page 6, line 10. Claim 12 was amended to improve internal consistency within the claim set. No new matter has been introduced by the aforementioned amendments.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Independent Claim 1

As noted above, all of the pending claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Ream reference. The Ream reference teaches a method and apparatus for debugging computer programs without recompiling through the use of macros which may be expanded into source code. Ream, col. 4, lines 18-23.

Independent claim 1, on the other hand, relates to a method for processing input from a command line interface, wherein the input comprises a macro. Specifically, there are two recited steps to the method. The first step involves replacing the macro with an executable command. The second step involves executing the command. Thus, claim 1 requires that the macro being recited in step one is replaced with an executable command.

The Office action states that the corresponding step in the original claim is present in the Ream reference to support an anticipation rejection of claims 1-14. Specifically, at page 2, the Office action states:

As per claims 1-14, *Ream* teaches a method for processing a batch file comprising at least one macro, the method comprising: parsing the file to locate text representing the macro; **expanding the macro into a command**; and executing the batch file, including the command. *Ream* teaches a method for processing a batch file wherein the macro located in the file are expanded into operable command code and executed.

However, Ream does not teach expanding macros into executable commands. Instead, Ream teaches expanding macros, located in the “debugging program,” into “full source text.” Ream, col. 4, lines 18-23 (emphasis added). Further, Ream teaches “... a plurality of macros having corresponding expandable series of source code instructions....” Ream, col. 2, lines 58-60 (emphasis added). It is thus clear that in Ream the macros are expanded into, or replaced by, source code instead of commands.

This argument is further supported by the fact that the Ream reference defines the term “command line” as “[t]he instructions used to start a program.” Ream, col. 3, lines 38-39. Similarly, the application provides an example of the term “command lines” in the context of a “batch file having a series of command lines that, when executed, cause a computer to ... run a particular program.” Application, page 6, lines 10, 11. Thus the application uses the term “command line” in a similar manner to its use in the Ream reference. However, Ream also distinguishes the term “source code” by defining it as “[t]he form of the computer program created by the computer programmer” and as “[t]he human-readable form of a computer program.” Ream, col. 4, lines 4-6. Thus, Ream distinguishes between the terms “command line” and “source code” and teaches that the macros of Ream are expanded into debugging program source code, not into executable commands.

Consequently, the Ream reference does not, explicitly or implicitly, teach the step of expanding macros into executable commands and therefore does not teach all the elements of claim 1.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 9

Independent claim 9 relates to a method for processing a batch file comprising-at least one macro. There are three recited steps to the method. The first step involves parsing the batch file to locate text representing the macro. The second step involves expanding the macro into an executable command. Finally, the third step involves

executing the batch file, including the command. Thus, similar to claim 1, claim 9 requires that a macro being recited in step two is expanded into an executable command.

The Office action has rejected claim 9 using the same reasoning used to reject claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that for the same reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, claim 9 is also allowable. In particular, as explained above, the Ream reference cited in the Office action does not disclose a step of expanding a macro into an executable command and therefore does not teach all the elements of claim 9.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 15

Independent claim 15 relates to a system for processing command line input. In particular, claim 15 recites the following:

A system for processing command line input, the system comprising:
a command line interface for receiving the command line input;
and a command line processor for parsing the command line input,
identifying one or more macros within the input,
expanding the one or more macros into executable commands,
and executing the commands.

Thus, claim 15 recites one or more macros being expanded into executable commands. The Office action states that this limitation is taught by the Ream reference.

Specifically, at page 2, the Office action states:

As per claims 15-21, Ream teaches a system for processing command line input, the system comprising: a command line interface for receiving the command line input; and a command line processor for parsing the command line input, identifying one or more macros within the input, expanding the one or more macros into commands, and executing the commands. (Abstract, col. 4, lines 15-col.10, see appendix A1)

However, as stated above, the Ream reference does not teach expanding macros into executable commands and therefore does not teach all the elements of claim 15. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

The Dependent Claims

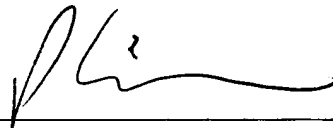
Each dependent claim incorporates the elements of its parent independent claim, and each parent claim is believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims are believed to be patentable for the same reasons. Moreover, each dependent claim recites elements that serve to independently distinguish over the Ream reference. For example, dependent claims 2, 12, and 16 respectively recite the following elements which are not present in the Ream reference: “prompting a user to identify the command that is to replace the macro,” “reading a field in the macro to determine the type of data that is to be received from the user,” and “a plug-in module for defining at least one of the macros.” Although, a discussion of such is not necessary at this time, the Applicants reserve the right to further discuss these issues in the event that a prima facie case of unpatentability of any independent claim is shown. It is respectfully requested that the dependent claims be favorably reconsidered.

Conclusion

The application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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